

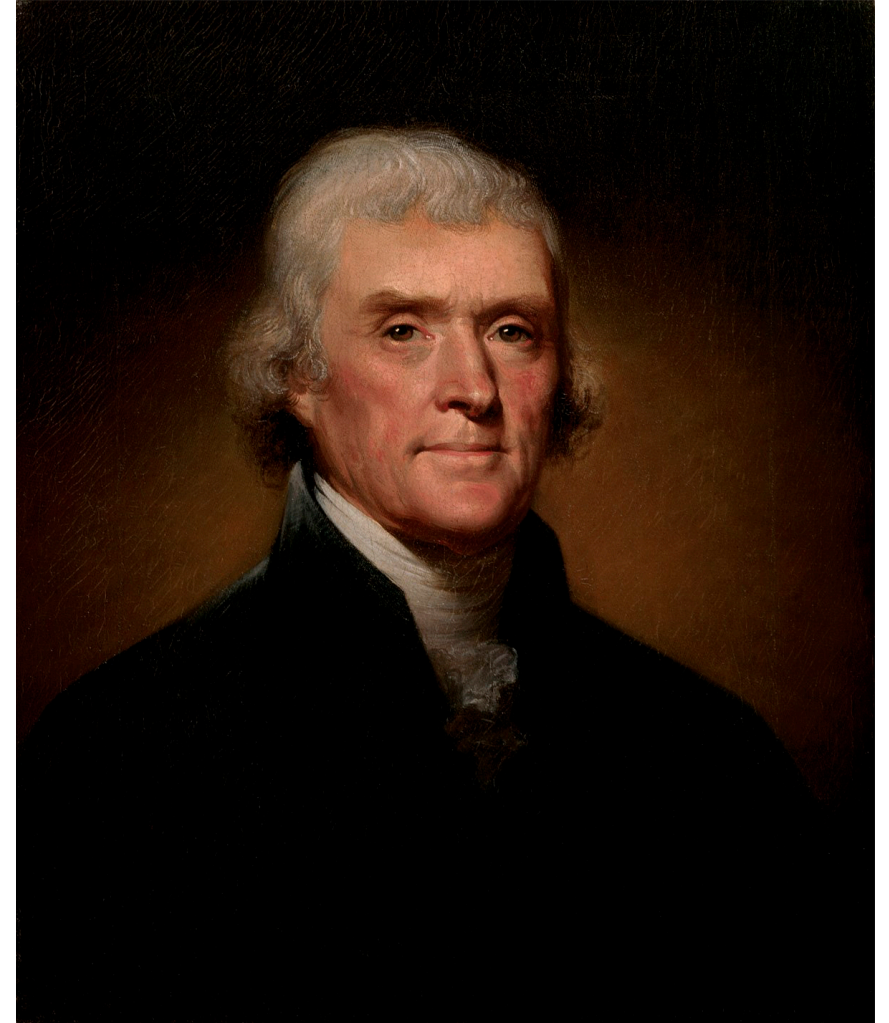
# Patterns of Nation-States and Culture in the Atlantic world

Part 1d



# The Louisiana Purchase

- Acquisition of the Louisiana territory by the United States from France in 1803
  - 828,000 square miles
  - U.S. paid \$11,500,000 and cancelled debts worth \$3,500,000 → works out to less than four cents per acre
- Included land from fifteen present U.S. states and two Canadian provinces
  - Non-indigenous population was around 60,000, of whom half were African slaves
- Occurred during the presidency of Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States

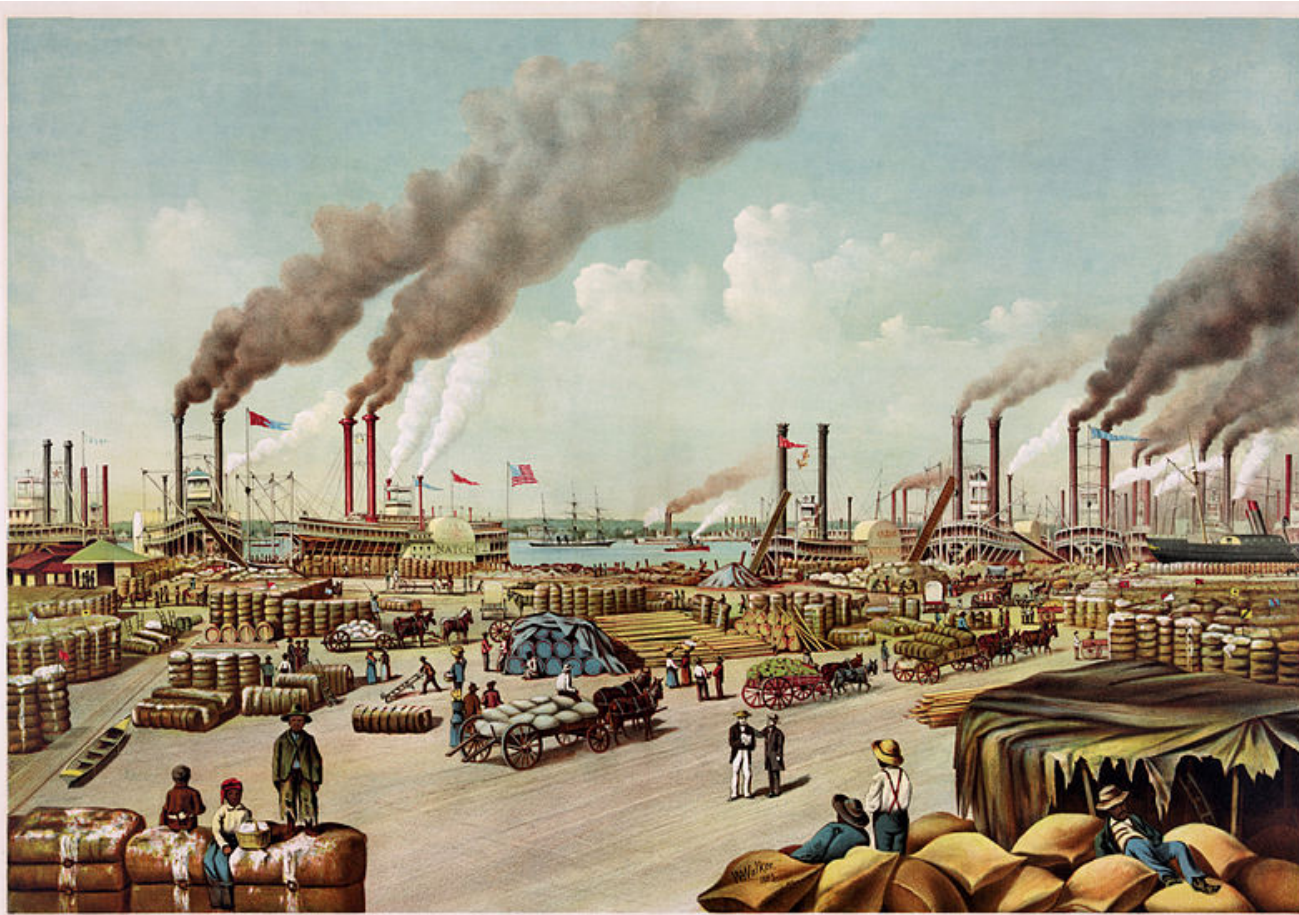


# The Louisiana purchase

- Throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Louisiana was a pawn in European politics
  - Controlled by the French → some small settlements along the Mississippi
  - Ceded to Spain in 1763 after the Seven Years' War → territory west of the Mississippi
- Establishment of the United States → Americans controlled the area east of the Mississippi and north of New Orleans
  - Main issue for Americans → free transit on the Mississippi to the sea
  - Did not want another power taking the territory from a weakened Spain
- New Orleans was important for shipping agricultural goods to and from American territories west of the Appalachian Mountains
  - Pinckney's Treaty, signed October 27, 1795 → treaty with Spain that gave American merchants the right to use the port of New Orleans to store goods for export
  - Also gave Americans the right to navigate the entire Mississippi



# The Louisiana purchase



THE LEVEE - NEW ORLEANS.

- 1798 → Spain revoked Pickney's Treaty
- 1800 → Spain ceded the Louisiana territory back to France
  - Power transferred back to France on November 30, 1803
- January, 1803 → James Monroe traveled to Paris to negotiate the purchase of New Orleans
  - Instructions were to negotiate or purchase control of New Orleans → did not anticipate larger acquisition

# The louisiana purchase

- Fear of an eventual French invasion spread throughout the United States in 1801
  - Napoleon sent a military force to secure New Orleans
- President Jefferson threatened an alliance with Great Britain, though he supported France in its plan to take back Saint-Domingue
- 1803 → American “back-door” negotiations with France began with the assistance of French nobleman Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours
  - Originated the idea of the much larger Louisiana Purchase as a way to defuse potential conflict between the United States and France over North America



- The cession of Louisiana and the Floridas by Spain to France works most sorely on the U.S. . . . It completely reverses all the political relations of the U.S. and will form a new epoch in our political course. Of all nations of any consideration France is the one which hitherto has offered the fewest points on which we could have any conflict of right, and the most points of a communion of interests. From these causes we have ever looked to her as our natural friend, as one with which we never could have an occasion of difference. Her growth therefore we viewed as our own, her misfortunes ours. There is on the globe one single spot, the possessor of which is our natural and habitual enemy. It is New Orleans, through which the produce of three-eighths of our territory must pass to market, and from its fertility it will ere long yield more than half of our whole produce and contain more than half our inhabitants. France placing herself in that door assumes to us the attitude of defiance. Spain might have retained it quietly for years. Her pacific dispositions, her feeble state, would induce her to increase our facilities there, so that her possession of the place would be hardly felt by us, and it would not perhaps be very long before some circumstance might arise which might make the cession of it to us the price of something of more worth to her. Not so can it ever be in the hands of France. The impetuosity of her temper, the energy and restlessness of her character, placed in a point of eternal friction with us...

# The louisiana purchase

- Jefferson disliked the idea of purchasing Louisiana from France
  - Could imply that France had a right to be in Louisiana
  - Concerned that a U.S. President did not have the constitutional authority to make such a deal → erode states' rights by increasing federal executive power
  - But he was also aware of the potential threat that France could be in the region → prepared to go to war to prevent strong French presence
- Napoléon's failure to retake Saint-Domingue led him to abandon his plans to rebuild France's New World empire
  - Without the revenues from sugar colonies in the Caribbean, Louisiana had little value to him
  - Decided to sell the entire territory

# The Louisiana purchase

- April 11, 1803 → French Treasury Minister François de Barbé-Marbois offered the United States all of Louisiana for \$15 million
- American representatives were prepared to pay up to \$10 million for New Orleans and its environs → dumbfounded when the vastly larger territory was offered for \$15 million
  - Jefferson had only authorized the purchase of New Orleans; however, the American representatives accepted the offer
- April 30, 1803 → French and Americans signed the Louisiana Purchase Treaty
  - Treaty reached Washington, D.C. on July 4, 1803
- Met with internal as well as international disapproval
  - Americans were concerned about the purchase's constitutionality, citizenship status of foreigners living within acquired territory
  - Spain protested that this was contrary to their agreement with France → not to alienate Louisiana to a third party

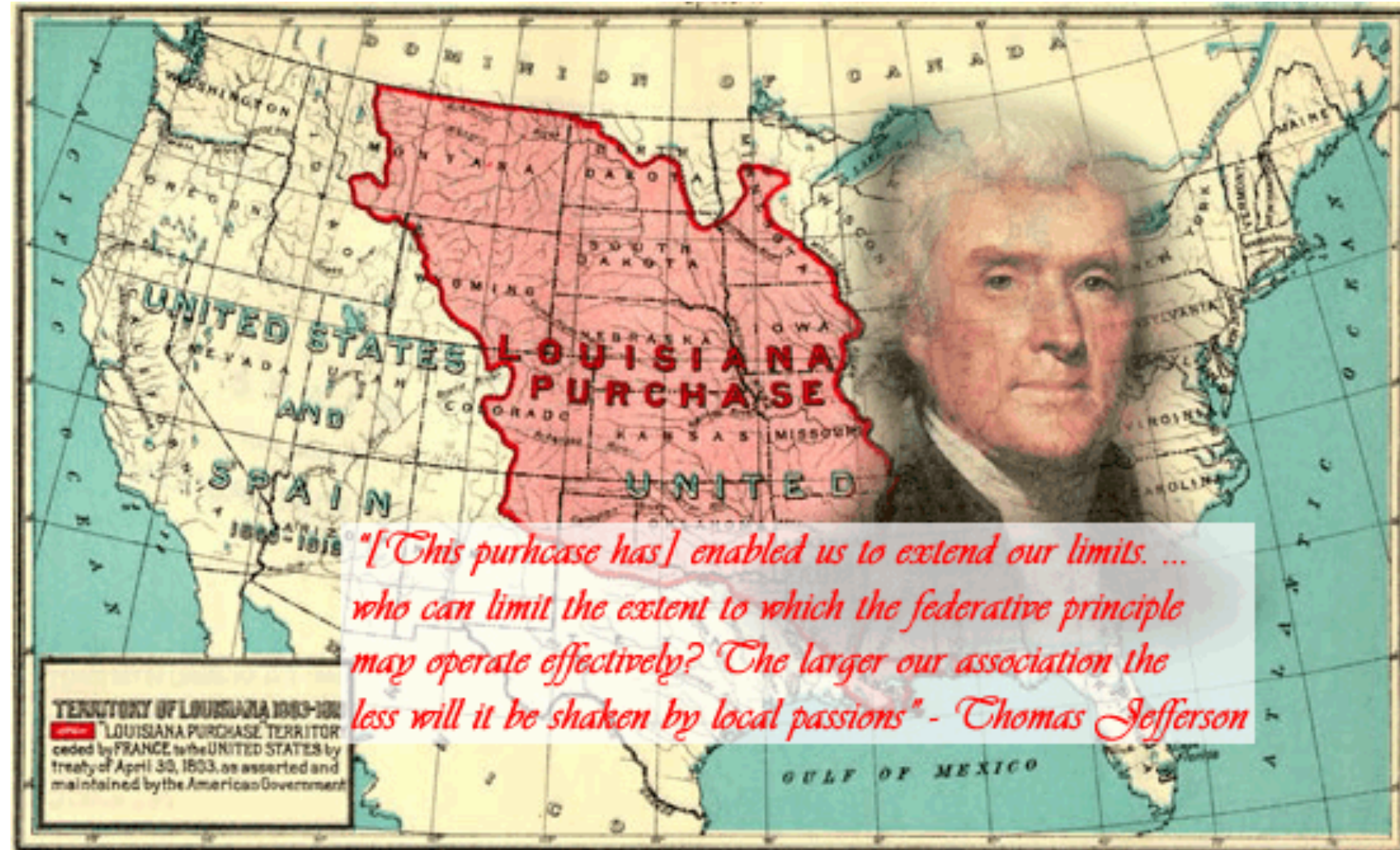
# The Louisiana purchase

- In spite of objections, the House and Senate quickly ratified the treaty and authorized the required funding
- October 21, 1803 → Senate authorized Jefferson to take possession of the territory and establish a temporary military government
  - October 31, 1803 → Congressional plans were set forth for several missions to explore and chart the territory → Lewis and Clark Expedition was the most famous
- December 20, 1803 → formal transfer of control of New Orleans from France to the United States
- March 9 and 10, 1804 → two ceremonies in St. Louis
  - Transfer of ownership of Upper Louisiana from Spain to the French First Republic
  - Transfer of ownership of Upper Louisiana from the French First Republic to the United States of America



# The louisiana purchase

- The Louisiana Purchase was by far the largest territorial gain in the history of the United States
  - Doubled the size of the country
  - Considered one of Jefferson's greatest contributions to the United States







The louisiana purchase -  
exploration

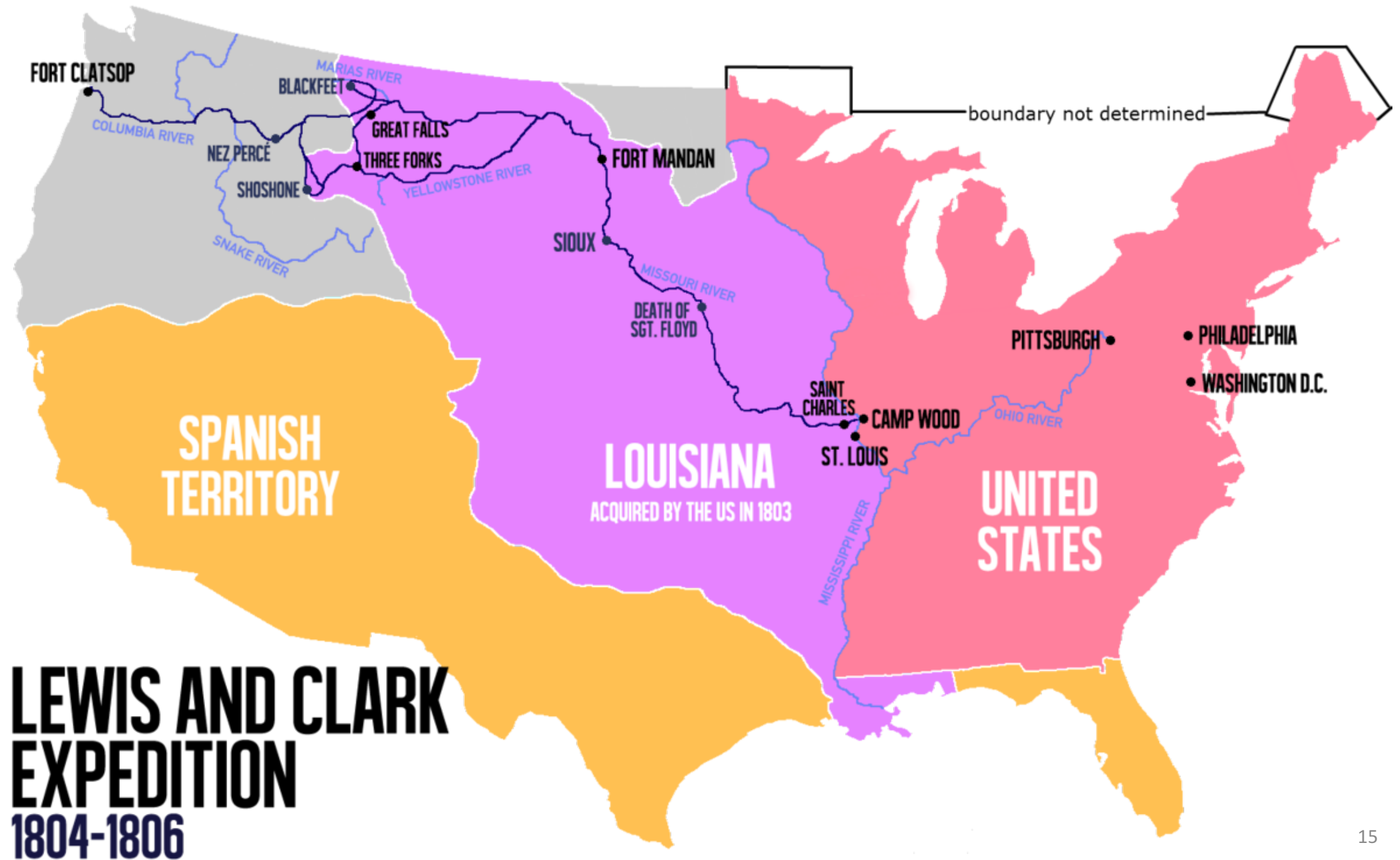


# The Louisiana Purchase - Exploration

- Lewis and Clark expedition → rightly considered one of the great American stories
- May, 1804 → The Corps of Discovery set out from Louis to travel up the Missouri River on an expedition organized by Congress at the request of Thomas Jefferson
  - Led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark
  - Thirty-one explorers
- Sent to ascend the Missouri to its source, then find the most accessible routes across the Rocky Mountains to the the Pacific Ocean
  - Also to open peaceful relations with Native peoples → explore the possibilities of trade
  - Gather scientific information and examples of western flora and fauna

# The Louisiana Purchase - Exploration

- Explored country previously unknown to Europeans
- First contact with American Indians were Shoshonis
  - Led by Sacagawea's brother, whom she had not seen since the Blackfeet had captured her as a child
  - Acquired horses, advice on how to cross the mountains
- February 11, 1805 → birth of Jean Baptiste Charbonneau
- The Corps reached the Pacific Ocean on November 21, 1805
  - Constructed Fort Clatsop → officially establish the American presence there
  - Passed a miserable winter
- Lewis and Clark split up on July 3, 1806 to explore different rivers and met back up again on August 11
- Returned to St. Louis in September, 1806



# The louisiana purchase - slavery





# The Louisiana Purchase - Slavery

- Large population of enslaved Africans in the Louisiana Territory
  - Spain had continued the international slave trade
- South Louisiana received an influx of French-speaking refugee planters, others fleeing slave revolt in Saint-Domingue
  - Permitted to bring their slaves with them
- Many Southern slaveholders feared that acquisition of the new territory might inspire American-held slaves to follow the example of those in Saint-Domingue and revolt
  - Wanted American government to establish laws allowing slavery in newly acquired territory so they could be supported in taking their slaves there to undertake new agricultural enterprises, reduce the threat of future slave rebellions

# The louisiana purchase - slavery

- Louisiana Territory was broken into smaller portions for administration
- Territories passed slavery laws similar to those in the southern states; also incorporated provisions from preceding French and Spanish rule
  - Spain had prohibited slavery of American Indians in 1769, though some slaves of mixed African-American Indian descent were still being held in St. Louis when the U.S. took over
  - Freedom suit that went from Missouri to U.S. Supreme Court,; slavery of Native Americans was ended in 1836

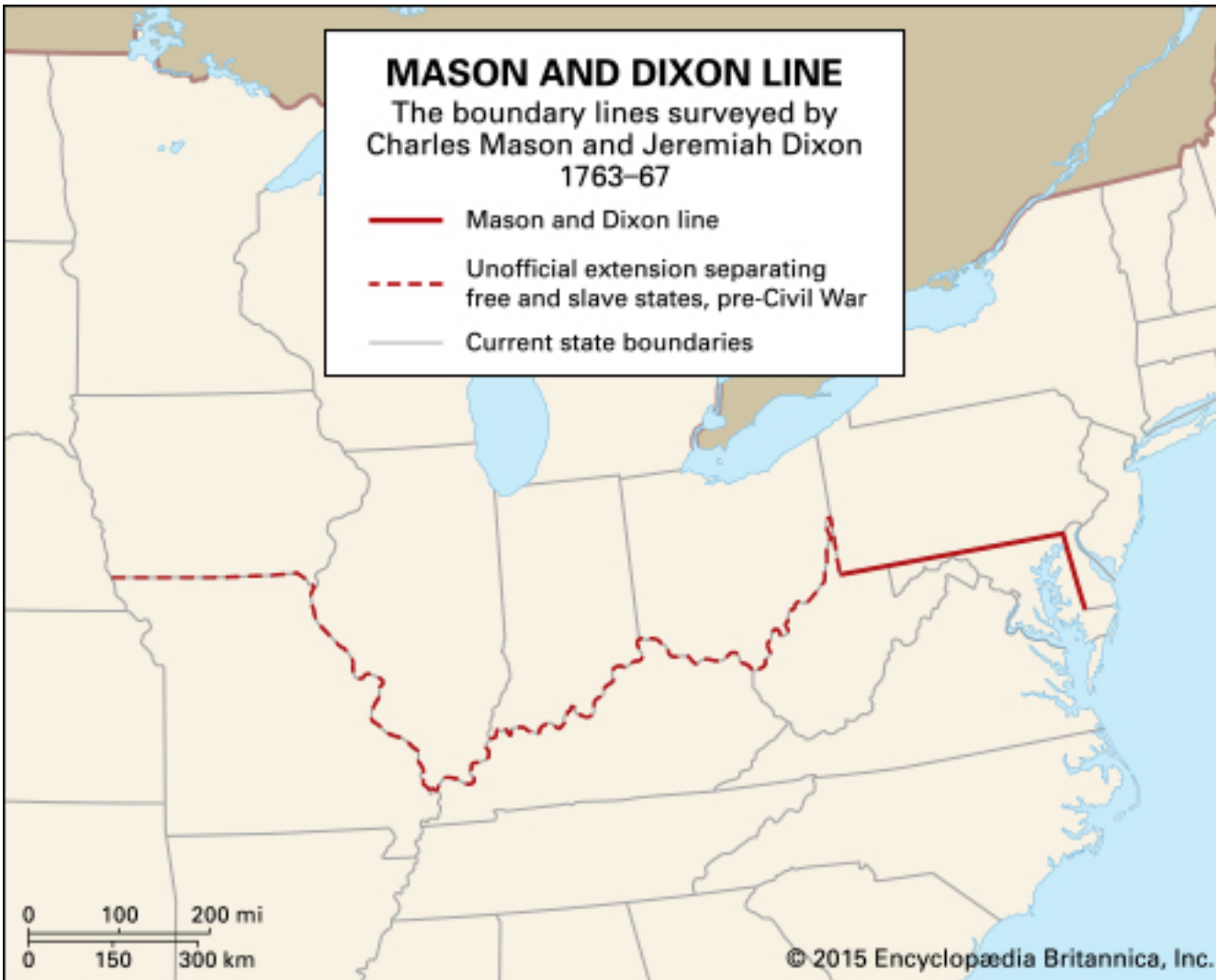
# The louisiana purchase - slavery

- Institutionalization of slavery under U.S. law in the Louisiana Territory contributed to the American Civil War
- As states organized within the territory, the status of slavery in each state became a matter of contention in Congress
  - Southern states wanted slavery extended to the west; northern states opposed new states being admitted as slave states
- 1812 → Louisiana was the first state to be carved from the Louisiana Purchase
  - Major cotton producer
  - Entered the Union as a slave state
- Following the War of 1812, Missouri Territory experienced rapid settlement

# The Louisiana Purchase - slavery

- Missouri Territory had no prospects as a major cotton producer
  - Only crop regarded as promising for slave labor was hemp
- Southern planters immigrated to Missouri
  - Slave population rose from 3,000 in 1810 to 10,000 in 1820
- State had a total population of around 66,000
  - Slaves represented about 15%
- Great disagreement within Congress regarding new slave states
  - Would throw off the balance of power in Congress between slave and free states

# The louisiana purchase - slavery



- Missouri Compromise of 1820 was a temporary solution
  - Northern region of what was then Massachusetts, the District of Maine, gained admission into the Union as the State of Maine, a free state
  - Allowed Missouri to enter into the Union as a slave state
  - Forbade slavery in the former Louisiana Territory north of the Mason-Dixon Line
- Admission of Maine prevented

# The louisiana purchase - slavery

- While it didn't ultimately prevent civil war, historians believe the Missouri Compromise delayed the conflict
- Missouri Compromise was eventually repealed by the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854
  - Introduced by Democratic Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois
  - Divided the land west of Missouri into Kansas and Nebraska argued for popular sovereignty, which would allow the settlers of the new territories to decide if slavery would be legal there
- Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 divided the nation and pointed it toward civil war
  - "Bleeding Kansas"
- Led to the emergence of Abraham Lincoln → the Peoria Speech on